



Church Resources List

Created as part of our event series:

At the Heart of the Community – A Future for Your Church

Please find information below on all the organisations mentioned at our events and additional resources, if you have any queries at all, please get in touch.

Heritage Trust Network (HTN)

- www.heritagetrustnetwork.org.uk
- Sarah Pearce, Development Officer for Scotland, 07734 395 112
- Sign up to our e-newsletter by emailing Sarah to give permission, sarah.pearce@heritagetrustnetwork.org.uk
- Attend other HTN events, [more information here](#).
- Become a member, [more information on member benefits here](#).

We now have a new free membership category, where members will receive updates on our activities and a free listing on our website, so that cost is not a barrier to receiving initial support. To sign up for this, please visit our website.

Historic Churches Scotland

- <http://historicchurches.scot>
- Victoria Collison-Owen, Director, victoria@srct.org.uk

Organisations that may be able to offer support to your project:

Architectural Heritage Fund

- UK wide
- www.ahfund.org.uk, email: ahf@ahfund.org.uk
- Gordon Barr and Jo Robertson, Support Officers for Scotland, scotland@ahfund.org.uk
- Start up funding for regeneration projects, primary focus is on community use but they will fund buildings that are used for worship fewer than six times per year.

Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS)

- Scotland only
- www.befs.org.uk
- In 2019 BEFS was contracted by the Church of Scotland General Trustees to run and facilitate a consultation process, looking at one of the most crucial issues for the future of the Church: how best to manage their church land and buildings. [Read more about the process and subsequent report here](#).

Churches Conservation Trust

- **Champing TM** – Camping in churches scheme, operating during the summer period only, generating income for the building. Running in England and has been piloted in Scotland. CCT would be happy to expand this further into Scotland. Take a look at the [video case-study on YouTube](#).

- **Church Plans**, a document created by CCT to assist in the management of their portfolio of nationally important former Church of England Churches. A working document which combines information on the church's history, significance, maintenance and repair needs and current use of the church, with feedback and recommendations from the community, and concludes with an action plan setting out agreed short, medium and long term goals to support the sustainable use and care of the church. [Download the template](#). [Download an example](#).

Church Buildings 'Open and Sustainable' Toolkit - Helping your church building become 'Open & Sustainable'

- getting grassroots voices heard at diocese and national level
- a simple process combining national requirements
- a real-world assessment for PCCs to get targeted help
- Stronger together - working with your neighbouring churches

This was devised and tested by the Rural Churches for Everyone project, a National Lottery Heritage Funded project working with 35 churches in four clusters, delivered between 2019 and 2023 by Newcastle Diocese and Yvonne Conchie, Rural Development Specialist. Download your free toolkit from www.newcastle.anglican.org/rcfe

Crossing the Threshold, Diocese of Hereford

- England focussed but applicable to churches across the UK

- [View the Toolkit online](#).

- “268 pages of advice, hints and tips for any group taking a community development approach towards adapting a church building for wider community use while balancing the needs of existing worshippers. It breaks down projects into three key stages:

- Preparing the Ground,
- Looking at Your Options,
- Delivering Your Project.

With numerous case studies, top tips and end-of-chapter checklists, as well as advice from experts in their fields, and with input and expertise from a range of national church organisations, this practical document draws upon the lessons learned from recent church projects of all denominations across the UK.”

Diocese of Lincoln Church Buildings Resources Toolkit

- www.lincoln.anglican.org/building-capacity-in-the-rural-parish-church
- “Valuable information for those who want to embark upon a church building project, whether the mundane but very necessary roof repairs or more extensive reordering projects to enable wider community use. In an easy and accessible series of videos and webinar recordings, there is much here that will be of use to churchwardens and projects leads.”
- “also a valuable training tool for those from outside worshipping communities who are interested in church buildings for what they represent as a part of our collective history, part of the very fabric of our towns and villages”
- Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund through their Inspired Ideas funding stream.

Ecclesiastical Insurers – Risk Management Online Resources

- <https://ecclesiastical.com/document-library/>
- Ecclesiastical insurers have many free articles and templates on their website offering risk management guidance, in particular there is a Church Guidance Note series.
- The guidance is aimed at buildings located in England, but much of the general advice will be applicable to other parts of the UK. Be sure to seek specific legal advice as it applies to your own nation.

Historic Environment Scotland

- Scotland only
- www.historicenvironment.scot
- New Grants programme [announced here](#).

Historic Religious Buildings Alliance (HRBA)

- www.hrballiance.org.uk
- UK wide, part of the Heritage Alliance
- Sign up to their newsletter via their website.
- Brings together those working for a secure future for historic religious buildings in the UK. Their website contains a wealth of useful information and resources. They also run events and seminars and produce an information-packed monthly newsletter.

Insurers (as recommended by Network members and event attendees)

- Hayes Parsons Insurance Brokers, Martin Howard, m.howard@hayesparsons.co.uk
- Ecclesiastical, www.ecclesiastical.com
- Ansvar Insurance brokers, (actually a business division of Ecclesiastical) www.ansvar.co.uk
- Church of Scotland Insurance Services, www.cosic.co.uk

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

- www.lpwscheme.org.uk
- Grants that cover the VAT incurred in carrying out repairs and maintenance to listed buildings in use as places of worship.

- The scheme is also open to charitable organisations caring for a listed place of worship no longer in regular use for worship. If you are a SCIO or charity it is worth enquiring whether you are eligible for the scheme.
- The scheme covers repairs to the fabric of the building, along with associated professional fees, plus repairs to turret clocks, pews, bells and pipe organs.
- The grant scheme is run by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and is administered by East Midland Business Ltd.

Make Your Mark Campaign

- Scotland only
- www.makeyourmark.scot
- “The Make Your Mark campaign aims to increase the number and diversity of heritage volunteers in Scotland. Our goal is to encourage the heritage sector to take the lead on inclusive volunteering practices and experiences. The campaign will be the connecting link between volunteers and organisations in the heritage sector, with a focus on supporting and increasing volunteering amongst underrepresented groups.”

Mission & Mortar Online Resource

- Produced by the Diocese of Hereford, www.missionandmortar.hereford.anglican.org
- “Many parishes are looking for ways of increasing the use of their church buildings, to respond to changing times and in response to new forms of mission. Every church and parish is unique, and if you have aspirations to better use your church building for mission in your community, the chances are there are already resources out there to help you but finding them isn’t easy – and nor is knowing where to start. The Mission and Mortar toolkit will point you in the right direction.”

National Churches Trust - Cherish

- www.nationalchurchestrust.org
- UK wide organisation, grants and building advice, they have a specific fund for Scotland.
- 2020/21 House of Good report ‘quantifies the economic and social value of all church buildings to the UK. Not just the bricks and mortar but the welfare and wellbeing they create in our communities.’ www.houseofgood.nationalchurchestrust.org/
- www.explorechurches.org, Sign up your building to encourage visitors.
- Cherish – small grants for maintenance work up to £80,000, where a church is used for worship more than 6 times per year. Online resources covering all aspects of church life from maintenance, how to apply for grants and improving tourism appeal. Dedicated [Support Officer in Scotland, Karen Hind.](#)

Plunkett Foundation – Community Businesses in Places of Worship programme

- UK-wide
- Funded by The Benefact Trust until the end of 2023, but resources and guidance will be available after that time.
- <https://plunkett.co.uk/community-businesses-in-places-of-worship/>
- “Places of worship can make great venues for community businesses; enterprises that trade for the benefit of the local community and are typically owned and run by local residents. On our website you can find some [inspiring stories](#) of where this has already happened – from shops and cafes, to performance spaces, farmers markets and renewable

energy schemes. We want to unlock the potential of places of worship to make a difference to the places in which they are based by encouraging even more community businesses like this.”

SCOTO – Scottish Community Tourism Network

- Grassroots community tourism network that supports the development of local tourism initiatives. Online resources and events.

- <https://www.scoto.co.uk>

- View a presentation from SCOTO on how to consider your church as part of a wider tourism offering [on our YouTube channel](#).

Other notes:

- Book recommendation from event attendees: [Churches for Communities](#) by Becky Payne.

See also: Pages 18 & 19 of [Your Church, Your Community](#)

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